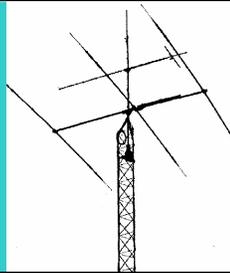


The AARC Beacon



*Serving radio enthusiasts
and communities in
Central Virginia –
The Radio Club for
Central Virginia*

Volume 2010, No. 8



August 2010

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The President's Letter

Dave, K4DND

Greetings everyone; I hope you are coping with the unusual heat this summer with no difficulties. The weather assures plenty of time to do inside work, and cleaning the shack has been occupying me for a while now. Recently, at the sale of W4RQ estate items, John KU4KEA was questioning whether he should buy Bob's FT-530. I told him that if he didn't, I would. Fortunately for me, John did take the HT home, as my shack cleaning has uncovered my entire collection of FT-530s, six in total. I was always impressed with that HT and decided long ago that I needed to have a couple of backups. Ham radio is a notorious slippery slope, if I haven't mentioned that before.

Speaking of sales of equipment from the W4RQ estate, my thanks go out to Roger W4EI, Bob K4DU and Don N4UVA for their invaluable assistance with this duty. Many of the items have been sold, and as soon as we can move the TenTec Orion II, we will be able to pass the proceeds on to the members of Bob's family. So if you are interested in a real top-of-the-line state-of-the-art rig, regardless of whether your interest is CW, phone or digital, you can't do any better than this one. Also thank you to everyone who has purchased items from this estate.

By the time you read this issue of the Beacon, many of us will have been to the Berryville Hamfest. Since I could not attend FrostFest this year due to the winter storm, and I couldn't attend the Manassas Hamfest because of a conflict with the MS-150 Bike Tour, this will be my last chance to get to a good ham radio gathering this year. I hope I will have seen many of you there. The boxes of stuff I had ready for FrostFest are still sitting in my living room, and will finally make their transition to some else's house at the August Picnic and Auction. I am really looking forward to this AARC event. It was great fun last year, and promises to be even better this year. So look around your shack, find some things you are not using or have not used recently, and use this opportunity to pass them on to someone who might be able to get some good out of them. So be sure to mark your calendars for the AARC Picnic on August 10, starting at 6PM. This year we will be going to the same place where we had the Cruise-In this spring, Darden Towe Park. If you need directions or transportation, please let me know well ahead of time. If you are able to provide transportation for

Meeting Notice

The next AARC meeting will be held on **August 10 at 6 PM at the Darden Towe Park shelter. This is our annual picnic and ham gear auction. Bring a dish to share and plan on staying for the silent auction fun.**

Be sure to attend!

someone, please let me know as well. So plan on attending, bring a dish to share with several others, your surplus ham gear, and most important, bring along some money so you can take some of my stuff home with you.

In this issue of the Beacon, look for the first in what I hope will be a monthly feature, an introduction to one or more members of the club. I decided to pick on Mike KJ4MFN and Whitney KJ4VCY to lead off. In talking with them about doing this piece, I was surprised and pleased to learn that they recently moved and are now living just up the road from me.

Upcoming AARC issues and events that you should be aware of include,

- 1.) The appointment of 5 club members as the Nominating Committee at the September AARC meeting. This committee will be responsible for adopting a slate of candidates to be presented at the October Annual Meeting, at which time the floor will be open for further nominations, followed by an election. Since the Bylaws specifically prohibit either the President or Vice-President from holding that particular office for more than 3 consecutive years, both these positions will have a new face for 2011.
- 2.) If anyone is contemplating changes to the Bylaws, these need to be presented in writing to the Secretary. They will then be presented to the membership at the next monthly meeting, and can be voted on at the meeting following their presentation. That means that they need to be submitted during August, for reading at the September meeting, to be voted on at the October Annual Meeting.
- 3.) We have a couple more interesting public service events coming up this fall. The Devil's Backbone Mountain Cross, a one day dirt and paved bike ride will take place on Saturday, August 29th. This is the second year of the event, which starts and ends at the Devil's Backbone Brewery at the intersection of Rts. 151 and 664. Last year, every participant (riders and volunteers) received a \$5 coupon good for food or non-alcoholic beverage at the Brewery. In addition, the organizers of this event gave a generous donation to the AARC. Then on September 25th we will be assisting with the Great Eastern Endurance Run, which starts and finishes at Lake Sherando in Augusta County. The organizers of these extreme mountain runs have generously contributed to both the AARC and the Waynesboro Repeater Association.

Congratulations to the AARC, current membership is 120. How outstanding is that? But... we have another 5 months to scour the landscape and recruit more. The point isn't just the membership number, rather it is quite evident that a large membership makes a strong and vital club, and the current membership number is one of the best advertisements and recruiting tools we have. A strong club that appeals to large numbers of local Amateurs also provides a great resource for helping new hams, solving problems for fellow members, exchanging ideas and equipment, and promoting record turnout for AARC meetings and public service events. You might ask what you can do to help. When you hear a new call on one of the local repeaters, go back to the person calling, and if they are a resident of the local area, invite them to join with us. Friendly voices responding on the local repeaters have long

been recognized by locals and visitors alike as a fundamental characteristic of the AARC.

Veep Peeps

Jim, K4JEC

I was impressed with the reaction to our program for the July meeting. The program on Ham Radio Deluxe drew a lot of participation and stimulated a lot of interest. We try hard to bring you programs that have a large appeal among the membership and it is so gratifying to find one that really hits the target. We are constantly looking for such programs and are certainly open to your suggestions.

I am looking forward to our ham gear auction and picnic coming up on August 10 at 6 p.m. in Darden Towe Park. We all need to set aside a special box in which we can place all the ham gear that has become excess to our needs and we would like to offer at the auction. All auction items this year will be limited to ham gear and closely related items. Needless to say, this was a great success last year, and again this year, it will give each of us an opportunity to dispose of our excess gear to make it available to another ham who might find use for it – all this amid the fun and excitement of good entertainment, good food and great fellowship. If you were there last year, you already know this but if you had to miss this event last year, you are in for a real treat. So, I urge you to put it on your calendar right now and send me an email (jecrosby@comcast.net) to offer your reservation. We obviously need a head count to purchase the right quantities of food and drink. Each participant is asked to bring a dish to share with several others to round out the picnic.

To make the event even more fun and move along at a little faster pace, this year we are going to stage a **Silent Auction**.

Silent Auction Items will be accepted from 5 till 7 p.m. on day of sale.

Silent Auction bidding will continue throughout the evening until the cut-off at 8 p.m.

Each item will have a sign-up sheet where you can sign up to offer a specific bid price for the item. You can continue to sign-up to offer a higher price than the last signer until the 8 p.m. cut-off. The signer offering the highest price for the item at the end of the auction gets the item for that price. In the event the signer with the highest price offer is not present to claim and remove the item before closing, the next highest price offer will be taken.

I have given much thought, study and research to establishing a date for our 2010 Ham Radio Cruise-In. To stay relative to the date of last year, we would have to set it for April 30 – the last Saturday in April which falls between Easter weekend and Mother's Day weekend. I believe this to be our best choice because it also has the advantage of being the weekend before the grand opening of the Lewis &

August 2010

Clark Exhibits that we had to compete with for parking space this past year. The date has been approved by the board and we all need to place it on our calendars because again this year, we will need all the help the membership is capable of mustering.

Remember, our next meeting will be a fun evening in the park. See you there!

Club Business

Patsy, K4PMC

AARC Minutes for July 13, 2010 Meeting

Board Meeting

Call to Order – The meeting was called to order by the President, K4DND at 7 p.m. with board members K4PMC, AD6JV, K4CGY, N4PGS, N4UVA, and K4DND.

Secretary's Board Report

Nothing for the Board

Treasurer's Report

Nothing for the Board

Vice President's Report

We have a reservation for the Pavilion at Darden Towe Park for August 10, 2010. We should begin planning for the Annual Auction and Picnic.

I recommend and move that we adopt a budget not to exceed \$275 for food for the annual picnic/auction. The motion was seconded by N4PGS and passed unanimously.

I recommend that we adopt the date of April 30, 2011 as the date for the Second Annual Cruise-In. Motion was made by K4CGY and seconded by N4UVA, the motion passed unanimously.

President's Report

Nothing for the board.

Committee Reports & Business to be brought before the board.

Technical Committee – Nothing for board.

Fund Raising Committee – K4DU was absent for board meeting.

Estate Committee – KI5LLB absent.

Public Service Committee – Nothing for board.

Education Committee – Nothing for board.

Public Relations Committee – Nothing for the board.

Old Business -- (Nothing submitted)

New Business (Nothing submitted from the floor.)

Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

Membership Meeting

Call to Order -- The meeting was called to order by President, K4DND at 7:30 p.m. All were invited to state their

name and call. There were 36 members present and one prospective member who wants to become a ham.

Secretary's Report

General Meeting Minutes for June were approved as printed in The Beacon on a motion by K0WQ that was seconded by K4DU and passed unanimously.

Two applications were received: A renewal from Mike McDaniel, K14UQQ was accepted. A new application from Bruce Collins, AA4CN was approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Receipts & Expenditures for previous month:

Opening balance	\$5,528.04
Expense	190.87
Deposits	81.00
Closing balance	\$5,418.17

The treasurer, N4UVA requested approval of a bill from Bankers Insurance for \$488 for our annual premium for our liability insurance coverage. The motion was seconded by K4THE and it passed unanimously.

President's Report

K4DND reported he had been unsuccessful in trying to email the Equipment Inventory from IW4RQ's estate and has determined that the UVA mail list will not allow an attachment. He advised that the list is on the club website and the items will be displayed at N4UVA (Don's) house on Tuesday, July 20, from 7 to 9 p.m. for anyone who wants to look them over and make a purchase. He noted that some items have been purchased already.

He stated that Field Day was very successful and noted that operators must respect the equipment loaned for field day because it may not be available for another year.

He advised that the state conducted an emergency communications test last Saturday and we were asked to provide ham radio coverage at various UVA locations. Although it was short notice, we provided the requested coverage and was able to report from each location to the EOC in Richmond using our 146.895 repeater.

Vice President's Report

K4JEC noted that we have reserved the Pavilion at Darden Towe Park for August 10 for our Annual Picnic and Ham Equipment Auction and that we need to start planning for this by putting aside items from our shacks that we would like included in the auction. The picnic will run from 6 p.m. till dark. We have the pavilion rented from 5 p.m. till dark and the \$50 rental fee is paid. The club will furnish the meat, condiments, drinks and paper products. All members are asked to bring a dish to share.

K4JEC announced that the board had approved the date of April 30, 2011 as the date for the Second Annual Virginia Ham Radio Cruise-In. President Dave advised that this was a great success last year and urged everyone to put the date on their calendar now and plan to participate.

Committee Reports

Technical Committee – Jim, K4CGY reported that all of our equipment appears to be in operating order. He expressed his thanks for the Field Day participation, everything worked great. He reported that our score for this years showed a significant increase over last year and that it could have even been better had we set up a UHF station which would have been a free station. We need to plan to do that nest year. He submitted a comparison report between last year and this year that are attached to the minutes. Last year's score was 25035 and this year's score was 33078. The TV coverage was great and was seen by a lot of people. Glenn, W4XR offered a report on field day activities in Fluvanna County. He said they had 12 operators working off of a carport. He said they had a catered dinner Saturday evening and lots of fun.

Fund Raising Committee – Raffle raised \$80 on the 50/50 raffle of the evening making the prize \$40 which was won by Elmer, KF4UCI.

Estate Committee – KI5LLB was not present.

Public Service Committee – N4PGS thanked everyone who turned out for the public service events and stated that everything went very well. He advised that he has received "Thanks" from the MS 150 and Tourde Greene Committees expressing their appreciation for our services.

Education Committee – AD6JV stated that the plan was to offer a General License Course this fall.

Public Relations Committee – K4BAV reported that Field Day is all over and publicity turned out to be very good – especially the TV coverage we received from NBC 29. The video clip from NBC 29 was played for all who did not get to see it's original broadcast.

Old Business (Nothing offered)

New Business (Nothing submitted from the floor.)

Program:

A briefing and review of the software program Ham Radio Deluxe was presented with a great deal of audience participation. .

Adjournment (The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 **p.m.**)

Amateur Radio Licenses on the Rise

Jim, K4JEC

Amateur radio licenses on the rise

The ARRL reports that with more than 18,000 new Amateur Radio licenses issued in the first half of this year -- 18, 270 to be exact -- 2010 is shaping up to be a banner year for Amateur Radio. So far, the number of new licenses issued by the FCC in 2010 is outpacing the January-June 2009 totals

by almost 8.5 percent; at this time last year, the FCC had issued 16,844 new licenses."

There are 18,132 hams in Virginia for a population of nearly 8 million residents as reported by Buckmaster Publishing just last year. The Charlottesville/Albemarle area has 375 licensed hams. Our contiguous counties list 228 making Central Virginia lists number 603. All counts were made from last year's figures.

As of June 30, 2010, there are 694,346 licensed Amateur Radio operators in the US, an almost 1 percent rise over all of 2009. In 2009, there were 682,500 licensed Amateur Radio operators in the US, an almost 3 percent rise over 2008. In 2008, there were 663,500 licensed amateurs; there were 655,800 in 2007. Broken down by license class at the end of June 2010, there were 16,299 Novices, 342,064 Technicians, 154,284 Generals, 60,059 Advanced and 121,640 Amateur Extra licensees.

"The ARRL VEC has been busy meeting the needs of the Amateur Radio community by helping people to become radio amateurs or upgrade their existing licenses," said [ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM](#). "So far in 2010, ARRL VEs have administered 20,929 exam elements at 3600 [ARRL VEC-sponsored exam sessions](#). The number of amateurs who want to be Volunteer Examiners and who want to teach Amateur Radio classes is also going up -- we've seen a spike in the number of applications from General and Extra class radio amateurs who want to give back to their community by [serving as ARRL examiners](#) and instructors."

Among amateur radio clubs in Virginia, AARC is one of the fastest growing boasting a current membership of 120. With a good number of successful events to our record – the Virginia Ham Radio Cruise-In being a national trend setter – our club is succeeding on outstanding intra-club communications, excellent leadership among it's officer, directors and committee chairman, outstanding public service activities and programs of great member interest, all of which, stimulate more and more interest among its members. Any club lives or dies based on its membership participation and ours is running at an all time high.

And, who would even hint at the thought that hams are a dying breed – not in this world!

For Sale and Wanted...

Ron, K4RKA

For Most recent listings – See www.albemarleadio.org

QCWA Chapter 155 Activities

Nearly twenty folks, members of Quarter Century Wireless Association Chapter 155, the Virginia Chapter, and their guests gathered for dinner on Sunday, July 18, at the Blue Ridge Café in Ruckersville. It was the largest turnout in quite some time. All enjoyed the occasion very much.

Present were Jim (K4JEC) and Patsy (K4PMC) Crosby, Harry (W2HD) and Kay Dannals, Art (WA4WQG) and Anne Dechent, Dick Florence (K2VY), Stan (K2SSB) and Sheila Hazen, Phil Lawrence (W4DGN) with son James and daughter Sarah, Jim (K4CGY) and Mary Owen, Bill (AD6JV) and Elizabeth Phillips, and Ernie (W2EIU) and Mella (W2HTJ) Sardi. Denny (W3DRY) and Nancy Avers (neighbors at Lake Monticello of Marty Mait, AG4DN) had written that they were committed to attending his high school reunion in West Virginia, but that he hoped to be back in time. In a telephone message after the dinner, he apologized that the timing just didn't work out, but emphasized that he wanted to be notified of future meetings.



Figure 1 – “Old Timers” Attending QCWA Dinner

The Quarter Century Wireless Association, Inc., is a not for profit corporation that is independent of other radio organizations. There are two membership qualifications: the applicant must have been first licensed at least twenty-five years before applying for membership, and must hold a valid license at the time of application.

Harry had asked me in early May if I would be willing to take over as President of Chapter 155, as the preceding President, Bob Dorsey (W4RQ), had died in March of this year. I accepted.

It all began with an idea. You can't know where you're going unless you know where are and where you've been. How many members are actually in the Chapter, who are they, and are their dues current? Also, are there national members who live reasonably close to Charlottesville who are not affiliated with any chapter?

I contacted Chuck Walbridge, K1IGD, General Manager of QCWA, asking whether he could mail me a list of national

members residing in USPS ZIP Code areas that I had specified. I received it within a week.

As with other organizations, a QCWA member has two options. He/she may pay dues from year to year or may pay a lump sum to become a Life Member.

The lists Chuck sent me showed, among other things, the member's date of birth, membership number, Chapter affiliation (if any) and the date on which dues expired. This latter date was not shown for Life Members, as it clearly did not apply. Sheila suggested that I transcribe into a spreadsheet pertinent information for members who lived within about 75 miles of Charlottesville.

For those members (in particular Life Members) for whom the date of birth was very early, the membership number was quite low, and the date of most recent update was some time ago, I checked the FCC database, call by call. I found that some of these calls had either expired or had been re-assigned to other individuals. This was a strong indication that the individual had possibly died. I kept Chuck apprised of what I learned.



Figure 2 -(L-R) AD6JV VP; K2SSB Pres; K4CGY Sec

I then started making telephone calls to these “inactive” members to ask them what they wished to do. (Our “land line” telephones (and thus e-mail service) were out for two weeks because of that late June wind storm.) I also told them of the planned meeting on June 18. Once telephone service was restored, on July 9, I could revert to the much easier (and less costly!) option of e-mail. For members in, for example, the Shenandoah Valley, I asked my contacts there if they could obtain e-mail addresses.

Because some nearby communities, such as Louisa, are served by the Richmond post office, I had included ZIP Codes 230/231/232 in my request to Chuck. I noticed that about twenty QCWA members lived in or around Richmond, and that all but one or two had no chapter affiliation. (Richmond has no QCWA chapter.) I made a similar spreadsheet for these people. From the ARRL Web site, I obtained the names of contact people in the two ARRL-affiliated radio clubs there. I have been in touch with each of them, to see whether someone in the Richmond area

might be interested in starting a chapter. This is a "work in progress."

All in all, serving as President of QCWA Chapter 155 has been a most interesting and illuminating experience. Our July dinner was an unqualified success. Personnel at Blue Ridge Café served us in their usual very welcoming and efficient manner. The consensus of those present was that we should aim for similar meetings about three times a year. I contemplate that the next meeting will take place in early November.

Stan Hazen, K2SSB
President, QCWA Chapter 155

AARC Member Focus

Mike Richardson KJ4MFN and wife Whitney KJ4VCY recently moved to the Charlottesville area from Bowling Green, Ky where they met at Western Kentucky University, and subsequently were married at in the spectacular setting of Mammoth Cave National Park.



Figure 3 - Mike KJ4MFN and Whitney KJ4VCY

Mike's background includes a 4 year tour of shipboard duty with the US Navy followed by 7 years of non shipboard and reserve time, before he reupped (go figure) in the US Army Reserve. Mike graduated from WKU with a Bachelor of Science double major degrees in Physics and Mechanical Engineering Technology.

Whitney is a self-professed Kentucky farm girl with 4 sisters and 1 brother. She also attended WKU and graduated with a Bachelor of Science dual degree in Physics and Astronomy.

In addition to Amateur Radio, optical astronomy is definitely on their list of shared interests, both belonged to the Hilltop Astronomy Club in Bowling Green, and they both joined the Charlottesville Astronomical Society on their arrival in our area.

Mike studied for and passed the Amateur Radio Technician Class license exam at the 2009 Dayton Hamvention. He upgraded to the General Class license at the 2010 Dayton gathering, where Whitney also gained her Technician Class license.

Mike is currently between jobs after having spent considerable time as a commercial cinema technician responsible for maintaining movie projectors over a multi-state service region. So, not only do we have the connection between Joe W2PVY and Ellsworth K4LXG with their shared interest in theater organs we have in Mike, the technician who can keep the big projectors rolling while the music is being played. How is that for a small circle of interests?

Whitney is employed by the UVA Astronomy Department and is responsible for operating part of the schedule of the 40" telescope on Fan Mountain. In addition to pointing the telescope at interesting objects, she is also responsible for data reduction on the images she takes with that telescope.

Mike and Whitney are interesting, valuable and welcome additions to the AARC family, so be sure to introduce yourself to them at the August picnic, and do it early because Whitney has an observing run scheduled if the skies are clear.

AARC Public Service Schedule

August 7	Mountain Mama
August 29	Devils Backbone Mt Cross
September 25	Great Eastern Endurance Run

Area Hamfests

Date Sunday August 1 Location Berryville, VA	Berryville Hamfest http://www.svarc.us/hamfest/
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FCC Database Updates

New Calls	
Upgrades	
Vanity Calls	
KU4KEA	John Ball

VE Session Schedule - 2010

Date Location (ARRL VEC)	None scheduled for August. Remember the new Technician Question Pool is effective as of July 1, 2010. DON'T study the old questions!!
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AARC Club Officers

President	Dave Damon	K4DND	k4dnd@arrl.net (434) 973-5866
Vice President	Jim Crosby	K4JEC	jecrosby@comcast.net (434) 987-2006
Secretary	Patsy Crosby	K4PMC	patsycrosby@comcast.net (434) 989-2362
Treasurer	Don Eason Jr.	N4UVA	deason@comcast.net (434) 973-9119
Director	Jim Wilson	K4BAV	jwilsonphoto@earthlink.net (434) 245-7041
Director	Linda Beard	KI5LLB	lindaskyone@embarqmail.com (434) 823-2107
Director	Greg Faust	N4PGS	n4pgs@arrl.net (434) 978-1962
Director	Bill Phillips	AD6JV	billp1048@earthlink.net (434) 872-0686
Director	Bob Pattison	K4DU	k4du@arrl.net (434) 985-4828
Director	Jim Owen	K4CGY	k4cgy@yahoo.com 434-296-3044

Contest Calendars

ARRL Contest Calendar 2010	ARRL sponsored contests
SM3CER Contest Service - Calendar 2010	Contests all over the world! Also has links to online rules for most contests
Contesting Online	Just about everything contests!

Albemarle Amateur Radio Club
P.O. Box 6833
Charlottesville, VA 22906
<http://www.albemarleradio.org/>



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ISSUE DEADLINE - 25th of each month

Contact Information
Dave Damon K4DND
4521 Burnley Station Rd
Barboursville, VA 22923
434-973-5866
k4dnd@arri.net

Next Club Meeting : August 10 - 6 PM Darden Towe Park

CLUB MEETINGS and NETS

REGULAR Meeting: Second Tuesday of each month at 7:30 PM
BOD Meetings: Prior to regular meeting at 7:00 PM
Meetings are held at the NRAO building on Edgemont Road.
LUNCH BUNCH: Wednesdays -- Area hams gather at the **Wood Grill Buffet** on Rte 29 North from 11 AM – 1 PM
Monday Night Information Net – Each Monday at 7:00 PM
Northern Piedmont Emergency Net: Each Thursday at 8:00 PM
All Nets are held on the 146.760 repeater

AREA REPEATERS

146.760 (-) 151.4 Hz Tone **WA4TFZ**
146.925 (-) 151.4 Hz Tone **WA4TFZ**
146.895 (-) 151.4 Hz Tone **WA4TFZ**
224.760 (-) No Tone **WA4TFZ**
444.000(+) 151.4 Hz Tone **WA4TFZ**
444.250 (+) 151.4 Hz Tone **WA4TFZ**
Other Area Repeaters
444.775 (+) 151.4 Hz Tone **KF4UCI**
442.075 (+) 151.4 Hz Tone **KF4UCI**
443.000 (+) 151.4 Hz Tone **W4UVA**
145.17 (-) 151.4 Hz Tone **W4FCO** (Fluvanna)
146.79 (-) 110.9 Hz Tone **WW4GW** (Buckingham)
145.450 (-) 151.4 Hz Tone **K4DND** (MJ Hospital)
IRLP Node # 4703
224.600 (-) 151.4 Hz Tone **KG4HOT**

Membership application available in PDF format at http://www.albemarleradio.org/members/AARC_member_application.pdf